



**INFORMATION FOR THE MEDICAL COMMUNITY AND THE PUBLIC
FROM THE
D.C. BOARD OF MEDICINE**

October 1998

RENEWALS UNDERWAY

Beginning on October 1, 1998, renewal applications for medical licenses were mailed to the addresses of record of physicians who are licensed to practice in the District of Columbia. Renewals are again being processed by our Contractor, Assessment Systems, Inc., a firm based in Philadelphia.

The mailing envelopes were changed for this renewal cycle to add the stars and bars of the District of Columbia for visibility purposes. D.C. medical licenses expire on December 31, 1998. All renewal applications have been mailed at this time. If you have not received your renewal application, you should call A SI at 1-888-204-6193 to have a duplicate sent to you.

**PRESCRIBING REMINDER
History & Physical Required**

The D.C. Board of Medicine recently received a letter from Pfizer, Inc. that expressed concern about advertisements on the Internet and elsewhere for Viagra, a prescription medication. In view of this development, the Board wishes to remind D.C. licensees that the accepted standard of care requires that a physician

complete a history and physical before prescribing any medication for a patient.

POSTGRADUATE TRAINING

In recent months several applications have come to the Board's attention that involved physicians who were in residency or fellowship programs at D.C. hospitals. Several of these applicants, were licensed in other states either before or during their Postgraduate training in the District of Columbia

Title 17 of D.C. Municipal regulations (DCMR), § 4611.12 reads as follows:

For purposes of this section [Prelicensure practice by students and postgraduate physicians], "postgraduate physician" means a person who holds a degree in medicine or osteopathy who is enrolled in a postgraduate clinical program prior to licensure in any jurisdiction in the United States.

In the District of Columbia, physicians involved in postgraduate training programs are not required to be licensed for a period of four years after medical school graduation in the case of graduates of U.S. medical schools. In the case of graduates of foreign medical

schools, physicians involved in postgraduate training are not required to be licensed for four years after beginning a U.S. residency. However, the regulation cited above requires that a physician in a residency or fellowship program become licensed, if the physician has ever been licensed in another jurisdiction of the United States.

Physicians involved in postgraduate training programs and program coordinators are reminded of the licensure requirement for physicians who are or have been licensed in other jurisdictions of the United States.

THE D. C BOARD OF MEDICINE

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Board offices: Located at 614 H Street, N.W. Room 1108, Washington, D.C. 20001. The phone number is (202) 727-5365. The fax number is (202) 727-4087. The staff is supervised by James R. Granger, Jr., Executive Director.

BOARD ORDERS Jul. - Sep. 1998

Oscar C. Bascug, M.D. 8/27/98:
Reprimanded by consent order.
Physician was denied reappointment to the staff of Washington Hospital Center for failure to report probationary status in Maryland.

Would You Like to Serve on the D.C. Board of Medicine?

If you are a D.C. physician, who is interested in serving on the D.C. Board of Medicine, you should contact the Mayor's Office of Boards and Commissions. The Mayor's Office of Boards and Commissions can be reached at (202) 727-1372.

Appointments to the Board are made for three-year terms. Members participate in the regulation of the practice of medicine in the District of Columbia. Regulation is achieved through the licensure process and the disciplinary process.

The licensure process involves establishing, administering and enforcing the regulations for licensing physicians in the District of Columbia. The disciplinary process involves evaluating complaints and investigation reports on possible violations of the license law. When investigations yield evidence of possible violations, members may be required to decide cases, including the sanctions imposed on licensees and applicants. These sanctions may include license denial, fines, reprimands, probation, suspension or revocation. In certain circumstances, remedial action and assessment is directed.

As a member of the D.C. Board of Medicine, you will be required to attend one meeting each month on the last Wednesday of the month. Preparation for the meeting involves reading the agenda, which is mailed to each member several days in advance of meeting with supporting documents.

Board members are not compensated at the current time, except for reimbursement of parking expenses.